



DATE: June 13, 2013

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Diana Yu

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – CONTAGIOUS DISEASE – SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND DAY CARE CENTERS, CHAPTER 246-110 WAC

Background and Summary:

According to RCW 43.20.050 section (2)(f), the Board has the authority to adopt rules for the prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious diseases, including food and vector-borne illness, and rules governing the receipt and conveyance of remains of deceased persons, and such other sanitary matters as may best be controlled by universal rule. This is further reinforced in RCW 28A.210.010 which states that the state board of health, after consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, shall adopt reasonable rules regarding the presence of persons on or about any school premises who have, or who have been exposed to, contagious diseases deemed by the state board of health as dangerous to the public health.

Chapter 246-100 WAC lists contagious diseases that must be reported to the Health Officer when the school or childcare center becomes aware of their presence at the facility, and the steps Health Officers may take to control or eliminate the spread of those diseases. These rules have not been reviewed or updated since 1992. A Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry, CR-101 was filed on February 6, 2013 announcing the Board's intention to update the rules.

On April 29, 2013 a Proposed Rule Making, CR-102 was filed as WSR 13-10-055. The Board is proposing an update to chapter 246-110 WAC to improve clarity and assure the list of contagious diseases that may affect children in schools and/or childcare centers are consistent with best public health practice and the notifiable conditions listed in chapter 246-101 WAC. The rule proposal removes two common conditions (Pediculosis or body lice, and Conjunctivitis or pink eye) and adds two new contagious diseases (Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* and Cryptosporidiosis). In addition to assuring consistency with chapter 246-101 WAC, and reflecting current best public health practice, the proposed changes will assure that local health officers will have up to date rules that will help prevent transmission of communicable disease to children, students, and staff in childcare and school settings.

Today, Tara Wolff, Board Staff, will brief you on the proposed rule changes, the process used to revise the rule, and summarize the comments received and our responses.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board approves the amendments to revise Chapter 246-110 WAC as published in WSR 13-10-055 and modified by two small language revisions detailed in today's presentation, and asks that a CR-103 be filed to adopt the amendments.

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff